

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

## **Patent Application**

Applicant(s):

Chen et al.

Docket No.: Serial No.:

YO999-172 09/345,238

Filing Date:

June 30, 1999

Group: Examiner: 2654 Qi Han

Title:

Method and Apparatus for Tracking Speakers in an Audio Stream

# AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Box Non-Fee Amendment **Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 0 3 2003

**Technology Center 2600** 

SIR:

Submitted herewith is an Amendment and Response to an Office Action relating to the above-identified patent application. There is no additional claim fee due in connection with the Response.

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510 as required to correct the error. Duplicate copies of this letter are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 26, 2002

Kevin M. Mason

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Kein M. Mara

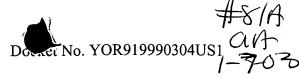
Reg. No. 36,597

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### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# **Patent Application**

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Applicant(s): Docket No.:

Chen et al. YO999-172

Serial No.:

09/342,450 345, 238

Filing Date:

June 30, 1999

10 Group:

2671

Examiner:

Huedung X. Cao

Title:

Method and Apparatus for Tracking Speakers in an Audio Stream

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ww/4 Date: December 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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# AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Signature:

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JAN 0 3 2003

Box Non-Fee Amendment Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

**Technology Center 2600** 

SIR:

In response to the outstanding Office Action, dated August 27, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows. A version of the amendments which have been marked to show all changes is included in the Appendix.

# **IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

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Speakers are automatically identified in an audio (or video) source. The audio information is processed to identify potential segment boundaries. Homogeneous segments are clustered substantially concurrently with the segmentation routine, and a cluster identifier is assigned to each identified segment. A segmentation subroutine identifies potential segment boundaries using the BIC model selection criterion. A clustering subroutine uses a BIC model selection criterion to assign a cluster identifier to each of the identified segments. If the difference of BIC values for each model is positive, the two clusters are merged.